

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend claims 1-7, 11-14, and 17 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for sharing an input device across a plurality of computing platforms, comprising:

routing input data generated at a first ~~computing platform~~ server blade to a second ~~computing platform~~ server blade, said input data generated in response to receiving an input signal produced by an input device coupled to a first ~~computing platform~~ server blade; and

providing the input data to an operating system running on the second ~~computing platform~~ server blade. [[:]]

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the method is performed via firmware in a manner that is transparent to the operating system running on the second ~~computing platform~~ server blade.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the input device comprises one of a keyboard and mouse. [[:]]

4. (Currently Amended) A method for sharing keyboard, video and mouse resources across a plurality of computing platforms, comprising:

routing user input data produced at a resource host ~~computing platform~~ server blade in response to user inputs via a keyboard and mouse coupled to the resource host ~~computing platform~~ server blade to a target computing platform;

providing the user input data to an operating system running on the target ~~computing platform~~ server blade;

routing video data produced by an operating system running on the target ~~computing platform~~ server blade to the resource host ~~computing platform~~ server blade; and

processing the video data at the resource host ~~computing platform~~ server blade to generate a video display signal to drive a video display coupled to the resource host ~~computing platform~~ server blade.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the method is facilitated by firmware stored on each of the resource host and target ~~computing platforms~~ server blades.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising maintaining global resource mapping information identifying the resource host and the target ~~computing platforms~~ server blades.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising maintaining a local copy of the global resource mapping data on each of the plurality of ~~computing platforms~~ server blades.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising maintaining the global resource mapping data via a central global resource manager.

9. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the user input and video data are routed over an out-of-band communication channel.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the OOB communication channel comprises one of a system management bus, an Ethernet-based network, or a serial communication link.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the plurality of ~~computing platforms~~ server blades ~~comprise a plurality of server blades operating~~ operate in a blade server environment.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the method is performed in a manner that is transparent to operating systems running on the plurality of ~~computing platforms~~ server blades.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the method is facilitated by firmware running on each of the plurality of ~~computing platforms~~ server blades.

14. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, which when executed on first and second ~~computing platforms~~ server blades support sharing of keyboard, video and mouse resources coupled to the first ~~computing platform~~ server blade by performing operations including:

- routing input data produced at the first ~~computing platform~~ server blade in response to user inputs via the keyboard and mouse to a second ~~computing platform~~ server blade;
- providing the input data to an operating system running on the second ~~computing platform~~ server blade; and
- routing video data produced by the operating system running on the second ~~computing platform~~ server blade to a video signal generation component on the first ~~computing platform~~ server blade.

15. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein the instructions comprise firmware instructions.

16. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein the article comprises a flash device.

17. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein the operations are performed in a manner that is transparent to the operating system running on the second ~~computing platform~~ server blade.